

Agency Name: Grayson County
Grant/App: 1344929 **Start Date:** 9/1/2026 **End Date:** 8/31/2027
Fund Source: WF-Violence Against Women Formula Grants
Project Title: Domestic Violence Investigator Program
Status: Application - Release Review to Applicant **Fund Block:** 2026

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Grayson County
Project Title: Domestic Violence Investigator Program
Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Grayson County District Attorney's Office
Address Line 1: 200 South Crockett St.
Address Line 2: Suite 116A
City/State/Zip: Sherman Texas 75090-7167
Start Date: 9/1/2026
End Date: 8/31/2027

Grant Officials:

Authorized Official

Name: Bruce Dawsey

Financial Official

Name: Suzette Smith

Project Director

Name: Elizabeth Holtzclaw

Grant Writer

Name: Elizabeth Holtzclaw

Position: Victim Assistance Coordinator

Narrative Information

Introduction

The purpose of this funding is to solicit applications for projects that promote a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improve the justice system's response to violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Project Abstract :

The Grayson County Domestic Violence Investigator is responsible for the comprehensive investigation of misdemeanor and felony cases involving Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking. The Investigator ensures that cases are thoroughly documented and prepared with complete and accurate information to support effective prosecution. In addition, the Domestic Violence Investigator provides direct assistance to victims aged 13 and older by supporting their participation in the criminal justice process. This includes offering information, guidance, and referrals to the Victim Services Division for further assistance. Victims are connected with services related to Crime Victim Compensation, Protective Orders, and other relevant resources to address safety, legal, and supportive needs. Grayson County faces a significant need for domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, and sexual assault services, with 400 cases submitted to the District Attorney's Office in 2025. The Domestic Violence Investigator assists female victims age 13

and older in navigating the criminal justice system, ensuring cases are fully investigated and offenders are held accountable. Victims are supported in exercising their rights under Article 56.02 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and connected to resources that enhance their safety and recovery. These services increase successful prosecutions, protect victims, and strengthen the community's response to violence. Grayson County serves a population of approximately 150,532 residents, and domestic violence continues to affect a significant number of individuals and families each year. In 2025, 13 local law enforcement agencies reported family violence incidents to the Grayson County District Attorney's Office; 186 of those were felonies and 311 were misdemeanors. These figures demonstrate that domestic violence remains an ongoing public safety concern in Grayson County and places consistent demand on law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim services. Each reported incident represents a victim who may require assistance understanding the criminal justice process, accessing protective orders, and connecting to supportive services. Continued funding through the Texas Office of the Governor is essential to ensure domestic violence cases are thoroughly investigated, properly prepared for prosecution, and supported through coordinated victim services. Dedicated resources improve offender accountability while helping victims receive timely information, referrals, and assistance necessary for safety and continued participation in the justice process. The goal of the Domestic Violence Investigator Program is to provide investigative services to all adult female victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking to assist in the successful prosecution of offenders and to ensure female victims are afforded the right granted by Article 56.02 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The Domestic Violence Investigator supports victims and assists the criminal justice process in cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. This position involves interviewing victims and witnesses to gather accurate information, assisting prosecutors with trial preparation and coordinating witnesses, and providing security for victims and witnesses during interviews and court proceedings. The Investigator also ensures that victims are informed about Crime Victim Compensation, protective orders, and other legal rights, and connects them to Victim Services Coordinators and additional community resources as needed. By performing these functions, the Domestic Violence Investigator ensures that cases are thoroughly prepared for prosecution while victims receive the support, protection, and resources necessary to safely navigate the justice system.

Problem Statement :

In Grayson County, with a population of approximately 150,532 residents in 2025, cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking are often not fully investigated or prepared for prosecution. Female victims age 13 and older need help understanding the criminal justice system, making informed decisions about their cases, and accessing resources such as Crime Victim Compensation and protective orders. Early information gathering and consistent contact with victims are critical to ensure their willingness to participate in prosecution and to protect their safety and rights. Without dedicated support, many cases cannot move forward effectively, and victims may not receive the guidance and services they need.

Supporting Data :

According to the 2023 Crimes in Texas report published by the Texas Department of Public Safety, law enforcement agency in Grayson County reported 877 incidents of Domestic Violence or calls for service in the 2023 fiscal years. Grayson County, with a population of approximately 146,907 residents, continues to experience a high number of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases. In 2025, the Domestic Violence Investigator handled 497 cases, including 186 felonies and 311 misdemeanors, providing critical support in cases involving sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. Many

victims, especially females age 13 and older, need guidance navigating the criminal justice system, understanding their rights, and accessing protective orders and compensation. Without dedicated investigative resources, cases may not be fully prepared for prosecution, and victims may not receive the timely support and protection they need.

Project Approach & Activities:

The Grayson County District Attorney's Office actively participates in the Texoma Council of Governments regional planning process, with a focus on improving services for victims. The Domestic Violence Investigator Program directly addresses the top priority of supporting prosecution projects that respond to violence against women. This project continues to develop a specialized Victim Services division within the prosecutor's office, focused on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases. The Domestic Violence Investigator dedicates their time to locating and contacting victims, gathering important information such as demographics, case details, past incidents of violence, and the current relationship between the victim and the offender. The Investigator also determines if medical records need to be obtained and whether the victim wishes to pursue prosecution. This information is critical for prosecutors to properly file and manage cases. Every effort is made to reach victims, including physically going to their known addresses if other contact attempts are unsuccessful, to ensure victims receive support and have the opportunity to participate in the justice process.

Capacity & Capabilities:

The Domestic Violence Investigator Program has operated the same way since it started, covering all of Grayson County and following a clear chain of command. The Investigator reports to the District Attorney and the First Assistant District Attorney, ensuring accountability and oversight. The Investigator is a U.S. Veteran with 30 years of law enforcement experience and brings a wealth of knowledge to every case. The Investigator will continue to complete all required training, especially on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, to make sure victims get knowledgeable support and cases are handled properly for prosecution.

Performance Management :

The goal of the Domestic Violence Investigator program is to ensure that all cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking reported to our office by the 13 law enforcement agencies in Grayson County are properly investigated and prosecuted. The program also ensures that victims receive the resources and legal rights guaranteed under Chapter 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The Domestic Violence Investigator will focus on contacting female victims age 13 and older, gathering important information such as demographics and permanent contact details to strengthen prosecutions. For the 2026 fiscal year, the Investigator will manage approximately 450 cases provided by law enforcement. The Investigator will track key measures, including the number of cases filed, cases investigated, cases referred for prosecution, and outcomes in both felony and misdemeanor courts, ensuring victims are supported and offenders are held accountable.

Target Group :

The Domestic Violence Investigator provides support and investigative services for all cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking involving female victims age 13 and older in Grayson County (population 150,532). Cases come from 14 law enforcement agencies, two college campuses, and the Texas Rangers. The Investigator serves victims of all races, religions, genders, and gender identities, ensuring Spanish-speaking victims and others with special needs receive appropriate support. In 2026, the

Investigator plans to provide services to [insert number] female victims, helping them navigate the criminal justice system, access resources, and ensure cases are properly investigated and prepared for prosecution.

Evidence-Based Practices:

The Grayson County District Attorney's Office created the Domestic Violence Investigator Program to provide prosecutors with the critical information needed for cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The Investigator makes initial contact with victims within 10 days of receiving a report and collects up-to-date demographic and contact information. They also gather details about the defendant, including criminal history and any prior bad acts, which helps keep victims engaged, supports them in making positive changes in their lives, and strengthens the chances of a successful prosecution. From January 1, 2025, to August 31, 2025, the Investigator handled 244 cases, and from September 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, 156 cases were investigated and forwarded for prosecution.

Project Activities Information

Introduction

Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program

In the space below, briefly explain how your project will address one or more of the state priority areas listed below:

a) Law Enforcement

- Victim-Centered/Trauma-Informed Training
- Regional Sexual Assault Response Teams: Law Enforcement participation
- Specialized Investigators/Units
- Coordination between Law Enforcement and Victim Service Providers

b) Prosecution

- Victim-Centered/Trauma-Informed Training
- Regional Sexual Assault Response Teams: Prosecution participation
- Specialized Prosecutors/Units

c) Victim Services

- Trauma-Informed, Professional Mental Health Therapy and Counseling
- Address Rural Needs
- Transportation and Emergency Housing
- Implementation of Telehealth/Tele-Advocacy Technology
- Language access plans
- Victim-Centered/Trauma-Informed Training

d) Courts

- Legal Advocacy (protective order assistance, legal rights & options, court accompaniment, etc.)
- Access to Court Hearings

The Domestic Violence Investigator uses trauma-informed training to interview victims and gather critical information about the offense. Investigator Unerfusser is an active member of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and regularly attends training to better assist victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. He also serves on the High-Risk Domestic Violence Team and works closely with the local crisis center to ensure victims are safe and connected to services. This includes help with protective orders, Crime Victim Compensation, court accompaniment, and other resources. The Investigator also makes

sure that accurate contact information is collected so victims can be reached and supported at every stage of the prosecution process.

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Investigation	100.00	The Domestic Violence Investigator, Tom Unerfusser, provides investigative services in the Grayson County Criminal District Attorney's Office including interviewing victims/witnesses of violent crimes against women; criminal background checks; court accompaniment, victim contact; an assisting in warrant involving Offenders of Violent Crimes Against Women.

CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of arrests made.	0
Number of cases filed.	0
Number of cases investigated.	376
Number of cases referred for prosecution.	376

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of convictions.	0

Victim Services Information

Agency Type

Implementing Agency Type - Government

Which designation best describes your agency

- Prosecutor

Purpose of Award

- Continue an OOG-funded victim project funded in a previous year

Type of Crime Funding Distribution

Identify the percent of funding dedicated to each type of victimization. The percentages provided below should not include matching funds. Cumulative total for all types of victimization must equal 100%.

Type of Crime	Percent of Funds Dedicated to Crime Enter whole percentages only		Funds Dedicated to Crime Current Award x Percent Entered
Child Physical Abuse	0		\$0.00
Child Sexual Abuse	0		\$0.00
Domestic and Family Violence	98		\$36,343.30
Child Sexual Assault	0		\$0.00
Adult Sexual Assault	2		\$741.70
DUI/DWI Crashes	0		\$0.00
DUI/DWI Crashes	0		\$0.00
Assault	0		\$0.00
Adults Molested As Children	0		\$0.00
Elder Abuse	0		\$0.00
Robbery	0		\$0.00
Survivors of Homicide	0		\$0.00
Adult Human Trafficking	0		\$0.00
Child Human Trafficking	0		\$0.00
Other Violent Crimes	0		\$0.00
Description:			
Other Non-Violent Crimes	0		\$0.00
Description:			
SUM of %'s Sum of % MUST = 100%	100	SUM of Funds Sum of Funds MUST = OOG Current Budget	\$37,085.00

Use of Funds

Does this project provide DIRECT SERVICES to victims:

Yes

No

Information and Referral

- Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.
- Referral to other victim service programs
- Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address-confidentiality programs, etc.)

Personal Advocacy/Accompaniment

Emotional Support or Safety Services

Shelter/Housing Services

Criminal/Civil Justice System Assistance

- Notification of criminal justice events (case status, arrest, court proceedings, case disposition, release, etc.)

Assistance in Filing Compensation Claims

All VOCA-funded direct service projects MUST assist victims with seeking crime victim compensation benefits. Please explain why your agency is not assisting victims with crime victim compensation benefits:

Types of Victimitizations

Check the types of victimization that best describe the victims the grant-funded project will serve. "Other" refers to a type that Is Not associated with any of the types provided in the list. Check all that apply:

Types of Victimitizations

- Adult physical assault (includes aggravated and simple assault)
- Adult sexual assault
- Adults sexually abused/assaulted as children\
- Domestic and/or family violence
- Human trafficking: sex
- Stalking/harassment

Budget and Staffing

Answer the questions below based on your current fiscal year. Report the total budget available to the victim services program by source of funding. Do not report the entire agency budget, unless the entire budget is devoted to victim services program.

Annual funding amounts allocated to all victimization programs and/or services for the current fiscal year:

Identify by source the amount of funds allocated to the victimization program/services budget for your agency. DO NOT COUNT FUNDS IN MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY. OTHER FEDERAL includes all federal funding except the award amount for this grant.

OOG Current Budget:
\$37,085.00

Other State Funds:
\$0.00

Other Local Funds:
\$0.00

Other Federal Funds:
\$0.00

Other Non-Federal Funds:
\$0.00

Total Victimization Program Budget:
\$37,085.00

Total number of paid staff for all grantee victimization program and/or services: COUNT each staff member once. Both full and part time staff should be counted as one staff member. DO NOT prorate based on FTE.

Total number of staff:
1

Number of staff hours funded through THIS grant award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs and/or services:
Total COUNT of hours to work by all staff supporting the work of this award, including match.

Total number of hours:
40

Number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs and/or services:
COUNT each volunteer staff once. DO NOT prorate based on FTE.

Total number of volunteer staff:
0

Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this award (plus match) for grantee's victimization programs:

Total COUNT of hours to work by all volunteers supporting the work of the award, including match

Total hours to work by all volunteers:

0

Explain how your organization uses volunteers to support its victimization programs or if your organization does not use volunteers explain any circumstances that prohibit the use of volunteers.

Fiscal Capability Information

Budget Details Information

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Certified Peace Officer - All Others	Domestic Violence Investigator Tom Unerfusser provides investigative services in the Grayson County District Attorney's Office investigating VAWA eligible crimes, which are domestic violence crimes, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. The Domestic Violence Investigator's budgeted Salary is 72,690.00 and his benefits are 29,710.00 benefits include FICA, Health Insurance, Retirement, Unemployment, and Workers	\$37,085.00	\$65,315.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$102,400.00	100

		Compensation. (Also, includes a 5% salary and benefits increase as usually approved by our commissioners.)						
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Source of Match Information

Detail Source of Match/GPI:

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
Domestic Violence Investigative Services	Cash Match	\$65,315.00

Summary Source of Match/GPI:

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
\$65,315.00	\$65,315.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Budget Summary Information

Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
Personnel	\$37,085.00	\$65,315.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$102,400.00

Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$37,085.00	\$65,315.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$102,400.00